

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A fuel injection system for a diesel engine, comprising:

a fuel injection nozzle adapted to inject a fuel toward the interior of a combustion chamber of the diesel engine,

an inert material supply passage from which an inert material with respect to the fuel is supplied, and

a fuel passage communicating with the inert material supply passage, and adapted to pass the fuel injected from the fuel injection nozzle therethrough,

wherein a gap is provided between the fuel injection nozzle and the fuel passage, and

wherein the fuel from the fuel injection nozzle is injected toward an inert material supplied from the inert material supply passage.

2. (previously presented) The fuel injection system for a diesel engine according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a controller controlling a quantity of the inert material supplied from the inert material supply passage.

3. (currently amended) A fuel injection system for a diesel engine comprising:

a fuel injection nozzle adapted to inject a fuel toward the interior of a combustion chamber of the diesel engine,

an inert material supply passage from which an inert material with respect to the fuel is supplied, and

a fuel passage communicating with the inert material supply passage, and adapted to pass the fuel injected from the fuel injection nozzle therethrough,

wherein a gap is provided between the fuel injection nozzle and the fuel passage.

wherein the inert material supply passage is communicating with the fuel passage in a position offset from a center of cross sections of the fuel passage, and

wherein the fuel from the fuel injection nozzle is injected toward the inert material supplied from the inert material supply passage.

4. (previously presented) The fuel injection system for a diesel engine according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a controller controlling a quantity of the inert material supplied from the inert material supply passage.

5. (currently amended) A fuel injection system for a diesel engine, comprising:

a fuel injection nozzle adapted to inject a fuel toward the interior of a combustion chamber of the diesel engine,

an inert material supply passage from which an inert material with respect to the fuel is supplied, and

a fuel passage communicating with the inert material supply passage, and adapted to pass the fuel injected from the fuel injection nozzle therethrough,

wherein the inert material supply passage communicates with ~~includes~~ a holding portion for holding the inert material, and

wherein the fuel from the fuel injection nozzle passes through the holding portion ~~of the inert material supply passage~~, when the fuel is injected toward the inert material supplied from the inert material supply passage.

6. (previously presented) The fuel injection system for a diesel engine according to Claim 5, further comprising:

a controller controlling a quantity of the inert material supplied from the inert material supply passage.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The fuel injection system for a diesel engine according to Claim 3, wherein the inert material supply passage communicates with a holding portion for holding the inert material, and wherein the fuel passage is arranged in a manner that causes the fuel injected from the fuel injection nozzle to pass through the inert material in the inert material passage.

9. (currently amended) The fuel injection system for a diesel engine according to Claim 5, wherein the fuel passage is arranged in a manner that causes the fuel injected from the fuel injection nozzle to pass through the inert material in the fuel ~~inert material~~ passage.

10. (new) The fuel injection system for a diesel engine according to Claim 1, wherein the fuel injection nozzle includes an injection port and the fuel passage includes a fuel inlet port at an end thereof, and wherein the gap is provided at least between the injection port and the fuel inlet port.

11. (new) The fuel injection system for a diesel engine according to Claim 3, wherein the fuel injection nozzle includes an injection port and the fuel passage includes a fuel inlet port at an end thereof, and wherein the gap is provided at least between the injection port and the fuel inlet port.

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